

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00848 280002Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 SAJ-01 /055 W

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R 271353Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9908

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, FI (KEKKONEN, URHO)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S TRAVELS

REF: HELSINKI 33

1. IT LOOKS AS THOUGH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S "HUNTING" TRIP TO ZAVIDOVO TO MEET SOVIET LEADERS (REFTEL) WILL NOT TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR. TRADITIONAL LATE WINTER-EARLY SPRING PERIOD HAS PASSED AND KEKKONEN WILL BE HOSTING STATE VISITS IN MAY-JUNE FROM TANZANIA, UK AND FRG. KEKKONEN'S FAILURE TRAVEL TO ZAVIDOVO MAY REFLECT BREZHNEV'S HEALTH AND PRE-OCCUPATION WITH CPSU 25 CONGRESS.

2. KEKKONEN PRESUMABLY STILL ON GOOD TERMS WITH SOVIET LEADERS. ALTHOUGH NOT ANNOUNCED IN FINNISH PRESS, SOVIET AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED KEKKONEN TO LAPLAND FOR SKIING APRIL 25, FOR STAY EXPECTED TO LAST ABOUT A WEEK.

3. PRESS APRIL 28 REVEALED THAT SUOMI SEURA HAD DECIDED TO AWARD TO ADDITIONAL "KEKKONEN 75TH BIRTHDAY" STIPENDS TO FINNISH-AMERICANS. ORIGINALLY PLANNED SINGLE STIPEND HAS BEEN AWARDED TO AN INDIANA UNIVERSITY STUDENT FOR DISSERTATION RESEARCH IN TURKU ON FINNISH EMIGRANTS IN US.

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PAGE 02 HELSIN 00848 280002Z

4. THE RECIPIENTS OF TWO ADDITIONAL STIPENDS WILL

BE "MADE PUBLIC AT THE LARGE FINNISH-AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, THE US 200 ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY, AT HANCOCK, MICHIGAN IN JULY." AS DEPT AWARE, PRESIDENT KEKKONEN HAS CONSIDERED GOING TO HANCOCK ON HIS PROPOSED TRIP TO US AND CANADA IN JULY-AUGUST 1976.

5. EMBASSY HOPES DECISION RE KEKKONEN VISIT TO WASHINGTON WILL BE REACHED BY TIME AMBASSADOR AUSTAD RETURNS TO HELSINKI IN EARLY MAY.
HOUSTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HELSIN00848
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760161-0173
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760416/aaaaamxz.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 HELSINKI 33
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <09 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S TRAVELS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, FI, US, UR, (KEKKONEN, URHO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006